**Districts covered by Food for Work Programme**

*255. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when Government started Food for Work Programme aimed at providing food security to the rural poor;

(b) the total number of districts covered by this programme, State-wise;

(c) whether any guidelines have been framed;

(d) if so, the details of such guidelines; and

(e) the quantity of foodgrains released in 2000-01 as wage payments in drought hit areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) The Food for Work Programme was started in 2000-01 as part of the EAS, in eight drought affected States *viz.*, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. The Programme aims at augmenting food security through wage employment in the drought affected rural areas as notified by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) At present, 164 Districts have been covered under the Food for Work Programme. Districts covered, State-wise under the programme are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the Guidelines, the Food for Work Programme has since been made a general scheme and expanded so as to cover other natural calamities like flood, cyclone and earthquake. The Programme was earlier to have ended by 30th June, 2001 but has now been extended upto 30th September, 2001. Under the programme, the Government of India are to make available appropriate quantity of foodgrains to each of the affected States as an additionality and free of cost, with a view to enable the affected States to provide adequate wage employment opportunities to the

needy rural poor. The States may make payment of wages partly in kind (upto 5kg foodgrains per person per day) and partly in cash. The eligibility criteria include both BPL and APL families. The State Govt. will be free to calculate the cost of the foodgrains paid in wages at either BPL or APL rate or anywhere between these rates. The workers will be paid balance of wages in cash so that they are assured the payment of minimum prescribed wages. The cash component of the wages and material cost are to be met from the scheme under which the Food for Work Programme is implemented. The cost of the transportation of foodgrains from FCI godown to the work-site/PDS and its distribution is the responsibility of the State Govts.

(e) During the year 2000-01 about 6 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been released to the drought affected and notified Districts of the respective States for payment of wages in kind.

**Statement**

*Districts covered under the Food for Work Programme*

| Sl. No. | Name of the States | No. of Districts Covered |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Chhattisgarh | 12 |
| 2. | Gujarat | 22 |
| 3. | Himachal Pradesh | 11 |
| 4. | Madhya Pradesh | 32 |
| 5. | Maharashtra | 26 |
| 6. | Orissa | 28 |
| 7. | Rajasthan | 32 |
| 8. | Uttranchal | 1 |
| | **Total** | **164** |